

Thank you for your subscription to Rep. Dan Huberty's Newsletter. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the SafeUnsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.



November 25, 2020

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

With only a few updates or news items in this week's edition, I simply wanted to take a moment to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Janet, Brianna, Ryan, Dylan, Rocky, Bullwinkle and I will be celebrating here at home again this year. With so much unpredictability lately, we are happy to be with loved ones and enjoy some of our own traditions. We wish you the very best Thanksgiving and hope you all stay safe through the holiday season.

In recognition of the holiday, my offices will be closed until Monday, November 30th, 2020.

Please note, there will not be another edition of the Capitol Newsletter distributed until next week. We look forward to bringing you updates from across the state, county and city at that time.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



Office Closure

In Recognition of the Thanksgiving Holiday both our District Office in Kingwood and our Capitol Office in Austin will be closed from **Wednesday, November 25th until Monday, November 30th, 2020.** We will respond to any communication with our office as quickly as possible upon our return.

Letter From Representative Huberty and Representative Jim Murphy - STAAR Testing

November 24, 2020

Commissioner Morath,

You have received multiple letters calling for the suspension of the 2021 State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness. We write to you joining many others who strongly believe that we should keep the 2021 STAAR administration assessment. As legislators, we need more, not less information to address the pandemic's direct impact on public education and its aftermath.

You have made a number of suggestions to adjust the accountability system and we trust you to make appropriate decisions on how to avoid punitive actions against districts, campuses, and students as a result of STAAR performance. It is reassuring to know that you have already identified a broad range of actionable steps that can be taken to protect our districts, campuses, and students.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc on our public education system. The STAAR test will provide some unique measurements, including achievement gaps amongst students who attended class in person, virtually, and even those who missed the final months of the 2019-2020 school year. Income level and regional data will be incredibly valuable, as well as internet accessibility. This data will aid in planning for impending emergencies as well as informing decisions about the future of public education, which may include more online learning and other tools developed and relied upon out of necessity during this pandemic.

Those of us who represent school districts heavily impacted by Hurricane Harvey are familiar with the stress and logistical difficulty of testing during disruptive times. We understand the need to protect our ISDs, campuses, teachers, and students from being held responsible for things outside of their control. We see this as an opportunity to apply these lessons statewide.

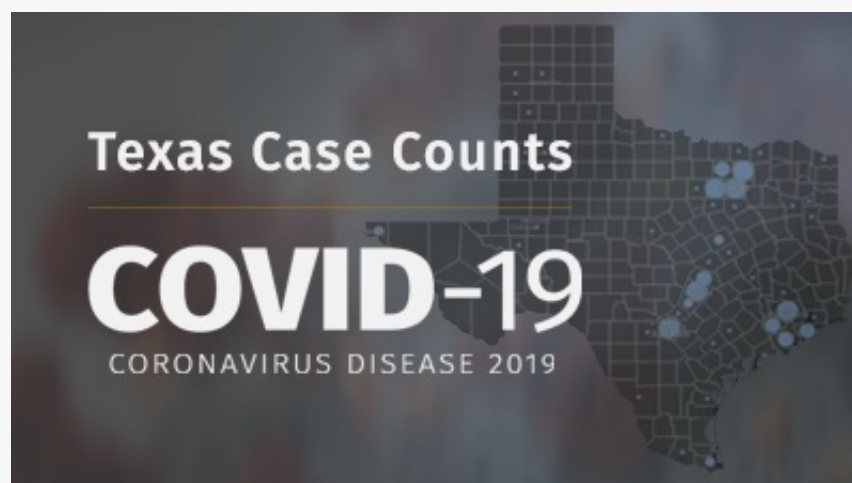
We commit to working with our colleagues in the legislature and with you to continue to improve how we measure student achievement in the state of Texas. The STAAR has its faults, but it would be unwise to toss out our most readily available and comprehensive tool for measuring student achievement at a time when we need information the most.

Respectfully,

Representative Dan Huberty
Representative Jim Murphy

State Updates

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard



DSHS 7-DAY COVID DASHBOARD

As of November 20th, 2020

CASES

1,060,883

+ 67,715

OVER PAST 7 DAYS

+ 6.74%

OVER PAST 7 DAYS

TRAUMA SERVICE AREAS

7-Day Percentage of Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 out of
Total Hospital Capacity

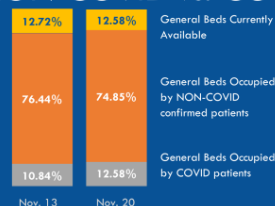
| TSA | Major Metro Area | 14-Oct | 15-Nov | 16-Nov | 17-Nov | 18-Nov | 19-Nov | 20-Nov |
|-----|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| A | Amarillo | 36.6% | 35.7% | 35.9% | 35.8% | 38.3% | 35.7% | 37.4% |
| B | Lubbock | 24.8% | 27.1% | 25.3% | 28.2% | 28.7% | 29.2% | 28.0% |
| C | Wichita Falls | 9.8% | 9.5% | 9.4% | 10.3% | 11.2% | 11.1% | 12.2% |
| D | Abilene | 9.1% | 8.9% | 9.1% | 9.3% | 9.2% | 9.4% | 10.8% |
| E | Dallas/Ft. Worth | 12.3% | 13.0% | 13.4% | 13.7% | 14.0% | 13.2% | 13.6% |
| F | Paris | 11.6% | 11.9% | 12.2% | 13.2% | 12.8% | 13.4% | 13.3% |
| G | Longview/Tyler | 11.8% | 11.8% | 11.9% | 13.1% | 12.8% | 12.6% | 13.2% |
| H | Lufkin | 7.5% | 6.0% | 7.0% | 11.0% | 9.8% | 9.2% | 9.4% |
| I | El Paso | 40.6% | 43.4% | 43.7% | 44.3% | 40.3% | 40.9% | 39.7% |
| J | Midland/Odessa | 13.8% | 12.8% | 14.5% | 16.1% | 16.7% | 15.7% | 17.0% |
| K | San Angelo | 11.7% | 11.7% | 14.1% | 15.0% | 16.9% | 14.8% | 13.6% |
| L | Belton/Killeen | 4.3% | 4.4% | 5.1% | 4.4% | 6.1% | 6.8% | 6.4% |
| M | Waco | 10.1% | 10.3% | 11.8% | 10.2% | 12.1% | 14.5% | 14.6% |
| N | Bryan/College Station | 11.5% | 12.7% | 13.4% | 10.0% | 11.3% | 11.7% | 11.0% |
| O | Austin | 3.9% | 4.2% | 4.7% | 4.8% | 5.0% | 5.1% | 5.4% |
| P | San Antonio | 8.1% | 6.2% | 6.9% | 6.8% | 7.1% | 7.3% | 7.4% |
| Q | Houston | 4.3% | 4.9% | 7.0% | 6.4% | 6.5% | 7.0% | 6.7% |
| R | Galveston | 10.9% | 11.1% | 10.9% | 12.8% | 11.1% | 9.9% | 10.9% |
| S | Victoria | 8.6% | 13.3% | 10.6% | 10.6% | 10.7% | 12.1% | 12.9% |
| T | Laredo | 15.0% | 17.0% | 18.1% | 18.8% | 20.2% | 21.3% | 20.8% |
| U | Corpus Christi | 7.3% | 7.6% | 8.0% | 7.9% | 8.8% | 9.2% | 10.0% |
| V | Lower RGV | 7.2% | 7.3% | 7.6% | 7.4% | 7.5% | 7.5% | 7.8% |
| ALL | | 10.2% | 10.6% | 11.8% | 11.8% | 12.0% | 11.9% | 12.0% |

[Visit the DSHS Coronavirus Case Counts Dashboard](#)

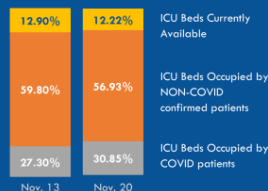
**CURRENT COVID-CONFIRMED
PATIENTS IN THE HOSPITAL**
8,164 **+15.26%**
TOTAL OVER PAST 7 DAYS

GENERAL BEDS: NON-COVID vs. COVID

5,862
GENERAL PATIENTS
+16.03%
OVER PAST 7 DAYS



ICU BEDS: NON-COVID vs. COVID
2,214
ICU PATIENTS
+11.52%
OVER PAST 7 DAYS



DSHS FUNDS
\$1,745,604,319
TOTAL EXPENDITURES

RESOURCES

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | | |
| 7,787 | 717 | 850+ | 980+ |
| Staff Supporting Hospitals | Alternate Care Beds Secured | O ₂ Concentrators Distributed | Ventilators Distributed |

**VACCINE &
CONTACT TRACING**

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | |
| 3,181 | 3,058 | 54 | \$67.7 M |
| COVID-19 Vaccine Providers Enrolled in Texas System | State & Local Contact Tracers Active | LHEs voluntarily in Texas Health Trace | Call Center & Staff Expenditures for Texas Health Trace |

[Visit the DSHS Hospital Counts Dashboard](#)

[Click Here to the Visit Texas Health Trace Website](#)

Governor Abbott, DSHS Announce COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott, DSHS Announce COVID-19 Vaccine...

Governor Greg Abbott and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) today announced the guiding principles for Texas' COVID-19 vaccine allocation process, which will serve as a foundation for the state's initial distribution for...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

Governor Abbott Encourages Texans To Participate In Small Business Saturday



Don't Make it a Happy Holiday for Car Thieves



Protect your ride and what's inside! It doesn't matter what kind of car you drive. All vehicles are a potential target of motor vehicle theft this holiday season. In Texas, almost 77,000 vehicles were stolen last year, and nearly 200,000 vehicles are burglarized each year. The losses to Texans are staggering – almost \$1.5 billion.

"Protect your investment," says Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) Chairman and Galveston County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Tommy Hansen. "Over 80% of communities that have a motor vehicle theft taskforce funded by MVCPA reported that keys left in cars and cars unlocked were the major contributors to these crimes."

Stolen cars disappear across the border, out of the ports or end up at local illegal "chop shops" every day. Motor vehicle theft would plummet if people did not leave their cars unlocked or leave their keys in the car. Many thieves use stolen vehicles in other criminal activities, such as human trafficking, drug smuggling and robbery.

MVCPA reminds Texans: If You Like It – Lock It. Locking your car is the most effective way to prevent burglary of your car. Remember to take or hide your things. Many law enforcement agencies say criminals are targeting vehicles in neighborhoods and parking lots likely to contain weapons or credit cards, which are the top priority for quick money from burglary. Don't go willingly down "Victim Lane." Follow these steps for a safe and secure holiday:

- Lock your vehicle and take your keys.
- Take your things. If you cannot, then hide valuables from plain sight to avoid attracting thieves.
- Never hide a second set of keys in or on your vehicle. Thieves can find these easily.
- Park in well-lighted areas or attended lots.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended, even if you will only be away for a moment.
- Don't leave documents with important personal details in your vehicle.
- Park with your wheels turned toward the curb and use your emergency brake, making your vehicle harder to tow away. Wheels should also be turned to the side in driveways and parking lots.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage as well as your vehicle doors. Your vehicle may be

more vulnerable when you park outside.

- Consider after-market theft prevention devices compatible with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Visit www.txwatchyourcar.com for more information, or email AskMVCPA@txdmv.gov. To see a full list and contact information of Motor Vehicle Theft Taskforces in your part of the state, see www.txdmv.gov/mvcpa-grantees.

Safely Make Your Holidays Merry and Bright at a Texas State Park, THC Historic Site



Safely Make Your Holidays Merry and Bright at a Texas...

Texas State Parks and the Texas Historical Commission host self-guided and social distanced events celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas AUSTIN- Although holiday celebrations look a little different this year, Texas State Parks and the Texas...

[Read more](#)
tpwd.texas.gov

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



Harris County
Public Health
Building a Healthy Community

H.D. 127 Updates

IH 69 Update



The IH 69 southbound exit ramp to FM 1314 and the northbound on ramp at Community Drive in New Caney are now open to the traveling public. Your patience during these ramp closures was greatly appreciated as crews performed work on the new SH 99 bridge that will travel over the interstate.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please email info@gpi-99.com or dial 877-553-7374.



Free Drive-Thru COVID Testing at the Kingwood Community Center



The Houston Health Department and its agency partners have announced the [schedule for sites](#) offering free COVID-19 tests the week of November 23, 2020.

The Kingwood Community Center will resume operations as a testing site from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, November 23 through Wednesday, November 25, and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 28 (**Closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 27**). The site will remain open until it reaches its daily capacity of 250 tests. Appointments are not required but advance registration is recommended by going to this website: www.doineedacovid19test.com.

Kingwood Community Center

4102 Rustic Woods, Kingwood, TX 77345

Monday, November 23, 2020 - Wednesday, November 25, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 28, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Please keep in mind there are testing sites throughout the City open to the public for free testing. You may see a [comprehensive list](#) of those sites by visiting the City's COVID-19 information website [here](#).

Capitol Office Closure

The Capitol office will remain closed in line with suggested Stay Home, Work Safe guidelines. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter or district127.huberty@house.texas.gov.

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